REMARKS

These remarks are set forth in response to the non-final Office Action mailed April 27, 2005 (the "Office Action"). As this amendment has been timely filed with the three-month statutory period, neither an extension of time nor a fee is required. Presently, claims 1 through 19 are pending in the Patent Application. In the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected each of claims 1 through 5, 7 through 12 and 14 through 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent Publication No 2001/0025299 by Chang et al. (Chang). Also, in the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 6 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chang in view of the Official Notice taken for the use of an Enterprise Java Bean (EJB) to facilitate the transfer of information. The Examiner yet further has rejected claims 1 through 5, 7 through 12 and 14 through 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,247,615 to Mori et al. (Mori) in view of Chang. Finally, the Examiner has rejected claims 6 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mori in view of Chang and further in view of the Official Notice taken in respect to the use of an EJB to transfer information.

In response, the Applicants have carefully considered the cited portions of Chang, Mori and the Official Notice taken by the Examiner and respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections on the art in that the Applicants note several claim terms of claims 1 through 19 which are not apparent within either or both of the Chang and Mori references. Prior to further addressing the rejections on the art, a brief review of the Applicants' invention is appropriate. The Applicants have invented a method and system for the establishment of a named collaborative space (referred to herein as "NCS") in a collaborative computing environment.

6

The NCS of the Applicants' invention provides a templatable and provisionable approach to facilitate the deployment of collaborative computing environments and places. Templatable as used herein refers to the ability of a collaborative computing community developer or user to create an NCS which can serve as a model for other named spaces. Provisionable as used herein refers to the ability of a collaborative computing community developer or user to base an NCS on a previous named space in a manner which may require little or no customization. Thus, deploying subsequent named spaces using the method and system of the Applicants' invention involves merely calling up an existing template and arranging it to fit the needs of the community.

Methods consistent with the Applicants' invention provide a collaborative computing method for the establishment of a named collaborative space in which a named space defining a work place within the collaborative computing environment is provided. A membership set for the collaborative space is identified in which the membership set includes one or more members. At least one business process accessible within the named space is provided. Likewise, systems consistent with the Applicants' invention include a system providing a named collaborative space in a collaborative computing environment, in which the system includes a computer having a database and a central processing unit. The database stores a membership set for the collaborative space identifying one or more members and data corresponding to a named space defining a work place within the collaborative computing environment. The central processing unit functions to provide at least one business process accessible within the named space. The central processing unit is in operative communication with the database.

Turning now to the rejections on the art, Chang relates to an electronic meeting system and method which facilitates the scheduling and operation of electronic meetings. The Chang

invention also provides for the generation of co-authored artifacts, such as documents, designs, project plans, and the like, which are the direct outcome of the collaborative process via the Internet. In Chang, in order to more effectively host formal meetings, modified rules of order are implicated based on Robert's Rules of Order in the preferred embodiment. Yet further, electronic collaboration can take place in Chang in concurrent or non-concurrent time frames, and in centralized or distributed locations, rendering the Chang invention pertinent in the modern field of communication.

Mori, by comparison, relates to a control method and system for establishing a connection among terminals forming a joint project information processing system. In Mori, a system is provided which include multiple terminal apparatuses connected to each other via a communication network for achieving joint information processing, such as involved in an electronic joint project and an electronic meeting. The terminal apparatuses are interconnected to each other via a logical ring path formed on the communication network. Each terminal apparatus is loaded with a control program for supervising the joint information processing. Subsequently, each control program functions in cooperation with control programs of other terminal apparatuses to conduct communication procedures for establishing, for changing, or for terminating the logical ring path and to control a display operation to supply the user with information identifying those members currently participating in the joint information processing.

Importantly, claims 1, 8 and 14 which are independent in nature, each require at least the performance of the following three steps:

(A)   providing a named space defining a work place within the collaborative computing environment;

(B)   identifying a membership set for the collaborative space, the membership set including

one or more members; and

(C)   providing at least one business process accessible within the named space.

In respect to the latter step (C), it is clear that Chang wholly lacks any teaching directed to

"providing at least one business process accessible within the named space".

In the Office Action, the Examiner referred to paragraph 0053 of Chang in support of the

contrary proposition. Paragraph 0053 has been reproduced in its entirety for ease of review:

> [0053] The basic order of business model is illustrated in FIG. 4. Among the
> components of a meeting are: registration or regist (250), calling a meeting to
> order or CalltoOrder (105), taking roll or roll (252) and adjournment or adjourn
> (125). As shown in FIG. 4, registration represents the number of users
> participating in the meeting. The number of meeting participants or members is
> established by an initial value. At the time to begin a meeting, the transition is
> ready to fire and the meeting is ready to begin conducting business. A condition
> to commencing a meeting is established, such as the requirement of a minimal
> number of members present (i.e. a quorum). In this scenario, if a quorum is not
> reached, the meeting adjourns (125). Once the business is in session, more details
> will be provided in the subpage (165). The number of participants trying to
> register (250) can be unlimited. However, only participants whose name is in the
> name set represented by the token can be accepted. The accepted participants (i.e.
> tokens) will be put into place and the rejected participants will disappear at the
> transition.

As it will be apparent, paragraph 0053 of Chang discusses the process of conducting a business

meeting in the business model of the Chang system. Yet, nowhere in paragraph 0053 is it ever

suggested that any participant can access a "business process". Moreover, nowhere in paragraph

0053 is it ever suggested that a business process can be accessed from within the meeting. Both

aspects are required by the plain language of the independent claims. Thus, Chang fails to teach

each and every recited element of the independent claims.

Mori fails to cure the deficiencies of Chang. Specifically, like Chang, Mori also lacks a

direct or even an indirect teaching to "providing access to at least one business process from

within a named space." Figure 3 of Mori has been cited in sole support of the contrary

proposition. Figure 3 of Mori illustrates an example of a display screen of the terminal station of

Mori. The sole textual discussion of Figure 3 follows as extracted verbatim from column 3, line

49 through column 4, line 5 of the Mori specification:

> In the example of FIG. 3, the window W1 shows a menu of job execution
> commands employed, for example, to initiate a joint information processing
> project, such as an electronic communication or a conferencing, or to change the
> configuration associated with the number of members or the like. This system
> supports the joint project execution commands including Joining C1, Admission
> C2, Withdrawing C3, and Termination C4. The window W2 shows a list of
> resources adopted in a joint project state, more specifically, a plurality of
> resources are presented in the form of icons. When an icon is selected by a cursor
> CU in cooperation with the mouse 2600, the content of the specified resource is
> presented on the window W3.

> A participant (user) of the electronic communication may adopt, in
> addition to the cursor CU, a pointing object (PO) prepared for each user to point
> to a position in the resource window. When the user desires to change a location
> of the pointing object assigned thereto, it is only required to overlap the cursor
> CU with the pointing object so as to move the pointing object to a desired
> position. The window W4 shows a list of members currently joining in the
> electronic communication. The contents of the list correspond to those of the list
> 1500 of FIG. 1.

As before in the case of Chang, nowhere in the cited portion of the Mori reference is it

suggested that a business process can be access from within the meeting. Rather, the foregoing

citation of Mori at best teaches that a user interface through which a meeting can be accessed

also can provided access to "resources". However, these resources cannot be accessed from

within the meeting itself. In the NCS of the Applicants' invention, it is a marked advantage that

subsequent named spaces using the method and system of the Applicants' invention involves

merely calling up an existing template and arranging it to fit the needs of the community. This

template necessarily includes a specification of one or more business processes which can be

accessed from within the named space. Of course, a cursory inspection of Mori will indicate that so much is not possible because no templating of a meeting is provided for in the Mori system.

In as much as Chang and Mori collectively fail to teach this important aspect of the Applicants' invention as recited in the claims, neither Chang nor Mori cannot satisfy the base requirements of a prima facie case of anticipation outlined in the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, section 2131 in which it is stated, "To anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim." Specifically, MPEP 2131 further states, "A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California, 814 F.2d 628 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Likewise, the combination of Chang and Mori cannot satisfy a prima facie case of obviousness as outlined in the MPEP, section 2142 in which it is stated, "The prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations." In re Vaeck, 947 F.2d 488 (Fed. Cir. 1991)

Consequently, the Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of all rejections based upon Chang under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), Chang and Mori under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), and either or both of Chang and Chang and Mori when combined with the Examiner's Official Notice under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), owing to the foregoing remarks. Thus, this entire application is now believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. The
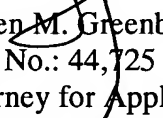
11

Applicants request that the Examiner call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any matter

within this Amendment, or if the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the

prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: September _21_, 2005

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